



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

**Richland Operations
Office**

DOE News Release

Media Contact:

Geoff Tyree, DOE
(509) 376-4171, Geoffrey.Tyree@rl.doe.gov

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Wenatchee Rotary to Host Speaker from Hanford August 4

Mike Thompson to Provide Group with Overview of History and Cleanup of Hanford Site

RICHLAND, Wash. – The Department of Energy (DOE) will be the guest of the Wenatchee Rotary Club on Thursday, August 4th, at Red Lion Hotel in Wenatchee at 12 noon. DOE's Mike Thompson, Geohydrologist for the Richland Operations Office, will be the guest speaker for the group.

The Hanford Site sits adjacent to the Columbia River in southeastern Washington and for over four decades was the primary producer of plutonium for national defense. The site stopped producing plutonium at the end of the Cold War in 1989, and began a new chapter of environmental cleanup.

Hanford's latest chapter is one of thousands of employees demolishing facilities, digging up contaminated debris and soil, remediating contaminated groundwater, building a treatment plant to isolate millions of gallons of tank waste, and placing former plutonium production reactors in a state of safe storage until they can be removed from the landscape.

Part of the presentation will include the first chapter of The Hanford Story multimedia series, "Hanford Overview." The video recently received an Emmy for best Historical/Cultural – Program/Special from the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences at its 48th Annual Emmy Awards in Snoqualmie, Wash., on Saturday, June 11, 2011. The Hanford Story video is available on <http://www.youtube.com/hanfordsite>.

Thompson's speech is part of DOE's [Hanford Speakers Bureau](#), a regional outreach program where the department travels to communities in the Pacific Northwest and provides updates on the Hanford Site. This year alone, the Hanford Speakers Bureau has presented to more than 40 audiences and approximately 1,500 people.

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